

# Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine EDI Brief – March 2023

## National Deaf History Month 2023

### Celebrating and recognizing National Deaf History Month

The [National Association of the Deaf](#) (NAD) recognizes April as National Deaf History Month. As part of ongoing efforts to address and dismantle racism within the deaf community, NAD ensures that the historical lens of the Deaf community recognizes and celebrates the experiences of BIPOC Deaf People.

### Our role in patient-centered care for deaf patients

Deaf and hard of hearing patients consistently cite poor patient-provider communication as a barrier to trusting relationships. Providers can better support deaf/HOH patients by understanding cultural and communication barriers and utilizing hospital resources, such as [American Sign Language \(ASL\) interpreters](#) when first meeting with a patient. Awareness of our own biases also helps improve patient interactions:

- Less than 50% of spoken words can be lipread (Rodríguez Ortiz Ide L. [Lipreading in the prelingually deaf: what makes a skilled speechreader?](#) Span J Psychol. 2008 Nov;11(2):488-502).
- Deaf patients often exhibit lower health literacy and require adapted communication to ensure reliable transmission of relevant information (Barnett S. [Cross-cultural communication with patients who use American Sign Language.](#) Fam Med. 2002 May;34(5):376-82).

## Diversity Council Highlights

### Welcome Jaelen Barnett, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Specialist!

Jaelen is passionate about using data to improve equitable academic outcomes and advocating for first generation Black and Brown students. In his spare time, Jaelen enjoys listening to music, being in nature, and eating good food.

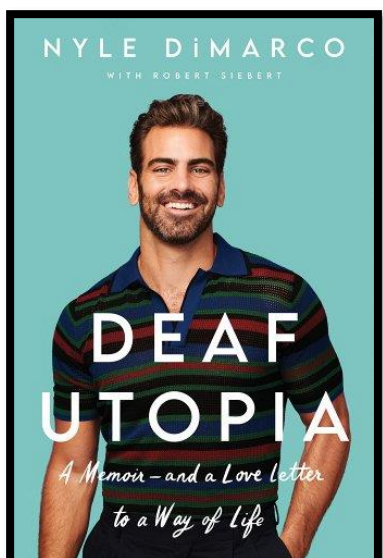
### EDI Council Updates

- **Cameron Donald** has joined the EDI Council
- **Maria Khalid and the Chief Residents** have also joined as Associate Council members.



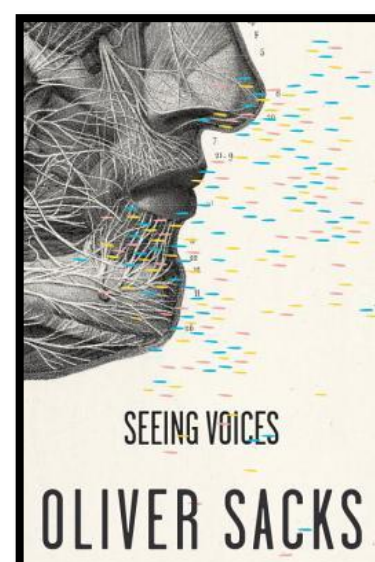
## Resources

### Recommended Reading:



[Deaf Utopia: A Memoir—And a Love Letter to a Way of Life](#), Nyle DiMarco

Born in a multi-generational Deaf family, Nyle DiMarco navigates life, school, and a career in a world built for hearing.



[Seeing Voices](#), Oliver Sacks

Neurologist Oliver Sacks explores the culture, language and history of the Deaf community.